



Footscray Primary School Foundation Handbook 2021



School Information

Address: 100 Geelong Rd, Footscray, 3011

Mailing Address: PO Box 6019, West Footscray 3012

Phone: 9687 1910

Email: footscray.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Website: www.footscrayps.vic.gov.au

Office Hours:

Monday – Friday 8:30am – 4:00pm

School Hours:

Monday – Friday 9:00am – 3:30pm

2021 Term Dates

TERM 1

Wednesday 27th January 2021 is a teacher preparation day and there is no school for students.

Thursday 28th January 2021

Year 1 – Year 6 Start School

Friday 29th January 2021

Foundation Start School

(NO SCHOOL ON WEDNESDAYS IN FEBRUARY FOR FOUNDATION STUDENTS)

Thursday 1st April 2021

Last day of Term 1 – Early Finish

TERM 2

Monday 19th April 2021

Students resume

Friday 25th June 2021

Last day of Term 2 – Early Finish

TERM 3

Monday 12th July 2021

Students resume

Friday 17th September 2021

Last day of Term 3 – Early Finish

TERM 4

Monday 4th October 2021

Students resume

Friday 17th December 2021

Last day of Term 4 – Early Finish

Please note: 2021 Curriculum Days TBC

Footscray Primary School 2021 Leadership Team

Jen Briggs	Principal
Sally Curmi	Assistant Principal
Janine Bell	Leading Teacher (2021 PYP Co-ordinator/Assessment & Reporting)
Chris Wilson	Leading Teacher (Student Engagement & Wellbeing)
Julia Woods	Learning Specialist (Mathematics & Vietnamese Language)
Jackie Robertson	Learning Specialist (Italian Leader & Foundation Team Co-Leader)
Sarah Tregonning	Foundation Team Co-Leader

Message from the Principal - Jen Briggs



In 2020, I was privileged to be appointed as the Principal of Footscray Primary School and I am so pleased to welcome you and your child to our beautiful school community.

Starting school is such an important milestone for children and their families and it comes with many big feelings. Some children will bound through the gate without a second thought and for others it will take enormous courage. There is no right way to feel about starting school and we will be sure to partner with you and your child to ensure a positive transition into school life based on your child's individual needs.

As an International Baccalaureate (IB) school delivering the Primary Years Programme (PYP), we understand that learning is a social endeavour. We invite parents to be partners in the learning as we support students to inquire into their lives and the world around them to be curious, active learners. Our students learn to communicate confidently in more than one language. At Footscray Primary School, students explore the relationship between learning language, learning through language and learning about language.

We look forward to supporting your child with their academic, social and emotional learning throughout their time with us at Footscray Primary School. Feel free to email me at jenny.briggs@education.vic.gov.au if you have any further questions.

Jen Briggs
Principal

Daily Timetable

At Footscray Primary School, learning begins promptly each day at 9:00am and finishes at 3:30pm. Our yard is supervised from 8:45am until 3:45pm and children should not be in the grounds outside of these times without their adult with them.

9:00am - 11:00am	Learning time
11:00am - 11:15am	Lunch – Inside Supervised Eating Time
11:15am – 12:00pm	Lunch – outside play
12:00pm - 2:00pm	Learning time
2:00pm - 2:30pm	Recess – outside play
2:30pm - 3:30pm	Learning time - <u>Students are dismissed at 3:30pm</u>



Uniform

School uniform is compulsory at Footscray Primary School. The Footscray Primary School uniform is available for purchase from Noone Imagewear at the below locations for your convenience. You can find more information on our website.

Noone Imagewear Shop

Mon - Fri: 8:30am - 5:30pm and Sat: 9:00am - 1:00pm

543 Keilor Road, Niddrie

Phone: 03 9379 5037 Fax: 03 9379 8446

Email: niddrie@noone.com.au

Second-Hand Uniform is available via the Donate, Swap, Sell Facebook page that has been established and managed by a fabulous group of volunteer parents.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/fpssecondhanduniform>

If you are not able to access Facebook, please contact our office for support.

Foundation Assessment Interviews

To help settle into the school routine and in accordance with the Department of Education regulations, the days of attendance for Foundation students differ to the rest of the school at the beginning of the school year.

Foundation students will not be required to attend school on Wednesdays in February.

Your child will be required to attend a 1-hour assessment interview with their teacher on one these Wednesdays. During this time the teacher will guide your child through a 1:1 learning interview to gather information about your child's literacy and numeracy understandings. There is no minimum expected level of literacy or numeracy at the beginning of Foundation. Teachers develop learning programs based on each child's point of need. We ask adults to wait outside the room or drop their child into the classroom and

return at the end of the appointment. If your child is anxious we can schedule their assessment later in the month to allow time to connect with their teacher before this appointment.

Arrangements for the First Day of School

On your child's first day of Foundation, please take your child to their Entry Door (to be confirmed) to meet with their teacher. There will be a range of activities your child can choose from to settle in and feel comfortable. You are welcome to join your child while they find a place to play and explore and take a photo of them enjoying themselves on this special day. Please keep in mind that children have mixed feelings about starting school. It helps us settle the children into routines if all parents/carers take their photos and say goodbye quickly.

What to bring on the first day?

Your child should arrive at school on time wearing the correct school uniform (see Dress Code Policy on our website). As Footscray PS is a sun smart school, this includes a broad-brimmed or legionnaire school hat, which must be worn outside from August 15 through to April 30.

Your child will need to bring the following items to school every day. Please have **all** items clearly **LABELLED with your child's name**.

Sun smart hat - broad brim or legionnaires

Packed Snack and Lunch. The school focuses on healthy eating and nude food so please try and include a range of healthy food with minimal packaging.

Water Bottle – able to be opened and refilled easily by your child.

Fresh fruit/vegetable snack for optional fruit time such as an apple, banana or cut up fruit/vegetables. These need to be able to be eaten with minimal disruption to learning time. Yoghurt and roll ups are not considered a fresh fruit.

A change of clothing in a plastic bag inside school bag in case of water or toileting accidents.

Preparing your Child for School

Getting Ready

Have a few mornings where you practise the 'getting ready' routine. You might create a visual timetable/checklist at home to make this process visual for your child.

Talk about school in a positive way and make use of the social story we will send home before the start of school.

Try and align snacks and lunch with the school timetable if appropriate.

Establish a routine with a set bedtime to ensure your child gets enough sleep.

Toilet

Children will visit the toilet with a friend. In Foundation, teachers plan regular visits to the toilet to help students transition to new routines. Children can ask to go to the toilet during

learning time when needed and have access to multiple toilets during outside play. It can help to ensure your child feels confident using the toilet on their own. Consider practising undoing buttons and zips, flushing the toilet, and using a urinal if your child is not yet confident with these routines. Stall toilets, as well as urinals, are available in the male toilets.

Dressing for School

Check the weather forecast and be prepared for unexpected changes. Pack a spare jumper in the school bag. Encourage your child to dress themselves so they can manage things like taking jumpers on and off at school. Reinforce the need to care for own clothing and other possessions. Label everything and get used to visiting our lost property near the main office 😊



Food for Energy

Please supply a healthy lunch, snack and fruit snack in a clearly named lunchbox. Water needs to be in clearly named, plastic bottles. You may want to go through what foods are eaten at what time, however, our Foundation teachers will help your child manage this also. Purchase a “child friendly” lunchbox and ensure your child can open and shut it with relative ease.

Self-Regulation

Starting school can be tiring for small children and you might find your child comes home with some big feelings and big reactions and may be more tired than usual. Generally, children work hard to regulate themselves throughout the school day and when they get home to their favourite people they have limited capacity to maintain their self-regulation strategies into the evening. Quiet activities such as drawing, having a bath, and a nice early dinner can help your child transition. You will likely find that bedtime comes a little earlier for a short while also...which is never a bad thing, right?

Clothing

Label all your child’s belongings. Show your child where these labels have been placed and how to identify their name. If your child has lost an article of clothing, please check Lost Property near the main office.

Saying ‘See You Soon’

Saying ‘see you soon’ to your child can be difficult for families. Your child looks to you to understand the world so try hard to remain positive and confident during the first few drop offs so your child can see they have nothing to worry about.

For the first few days you might like to put a family photo or special toy/article of clothing in your child’s bag that they can visit for comfort throughout the day.

Tell your child you are leaving, give them a kiss and a hug and then leave quickly. Reassure them that you will be back at 3:30pm to collect them. If your child is upset, staying longer can make the separation more difficult. Our teachers are well-trained at comforting and distracting children and this process is easier once the child can no longer see their adult. We always have extra adults and members of leadership in the Foundation rooms to assist

during the first few days. If you think you need some help to separate from your child, give us a signal and we'll help you out!

Approach the teacher if you know that the separation may be difficult so they can be ready to give a little extra support to your child should they need it at this time. It is not unusual for some children to be upset when parents/carers first leave. If your child is unusually distressed, the teacher will discuss further strategies which could be used to help your child adjust to school.

Picking your Child up after School

Children will be dismissed from their classrooms. We love having families in the yard before and after school (dependent on COVID restrictions) but please do not approach the classroom windows before the end of the day so your child can remain focussed on the classroom routines. Teachers will make sure each child has their adult in sight before they leave the classroom. If an older sibling is collecting your child, please let the classroom teacher know.

Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning

It is important to remember that each child is different and will be at different stages of their learning and development. Try to avoid the temptation to compare your child's stage with other children in the class. We will meet your child at their point of need. Some children will be focussing on the correct way to hold a pencil whilst others will be writing their name. Some children will be reading independently, and others might show no interest in books yet. All of these stages are completely ok!

You will be curious to know what is going on at school and may question your child about the activities of the day. Don't be concerned if your child is not keen to talk at length about school. You could try asking open-ended questions that help scaffold discussion such as 'What stories did you read/listen to today?', 'Where did you play at lunch time today?' 'Did you get to go to any other parts of the school today?', 'Did anything funny happen at school today'.

Our parents are our partners and we work together to provide the best learning experience we can for your child. The teacher will become an important influence on your child's life. If you are concerned about any matter or have any questions, you are always welcome to discuss these with your child's teacher. Please phone to make an appointment, at a mutually suitable time, outside of teaching times to minimise disruption to lessons.

The PYP

Footscray Primary School's central purpose is Learning for Living. We offer an inquiry-based curriculum through the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program (PYP). Through the PYP, we provide opportunities for our students to understand essential concepts, skills, knowledge and attitudes that will enable them to be life-long learners in our ever-changing world.

We aim for our students to develop confidence in their own abilities, to think for themselves, to express their opinions and to respect the opinions of others. The PYP is

focused on developing international-mindedness, understanding and respect. We value the development of the whole child in all areas of learning. The students are supported and nurtured in their social and emotional development as well as in their creative, linguistic, sporting and academic programs.

We place a strong emphasis on how students learn as well as what they learn. Students learn to reflect on their learning, becoming critical thinkers with an ability to take action. Our program is designed to prepare our students to become active, caring and thinking participants contributing to a peaceful and sustainable future.

We believe that our students learn best when they are actively involved in authentic learning across all curriculum areas. We want our students to be happy and engaged learners who are eager to come to school and interact with friends and teachers from all around the world.

Italian Bilingual Program

Footscray Primary School is proud to be a member of the Department of Education's Designated Bilingual Schools Program. Within this innovative program, students engage with the full Victorian Curriculum in both English and Italian. In 2021, students in Foundation and Year 1 will spend 50% of their time speaking, listening and learning in Italian and the other 50% speaking, listening and learning in English. Across the next 6 years, each new Foundation cohort will join the program.

Specialist Learning Areas

Your child will participate in a number of specialist learning areas. Each week they will have an hour of Physical Education, an hour of Visual Art, an hour of Music, and an hour of Vietnamese language learning delivered through the ELLA program that explores language acquisition through digital play.

Library

As a new member of the Footscray Primary School community, your child will have access to a well-stocked classroom library as well a shared school library with a wide range of texts to select from. We have an Indigenous corner with a large range of books by First Nations Authors and Illustrators, and we have a range of texts in multiple languages including Vietnamese and Italian. We are expanding this section of the library to source books in every language spoken within our diverse community – let us know if there is a language you would like represented. We are also introducing an FPS Author's Corner in 2021 where students can submit their own writing to the FPS Publishing House for editing and eventual publication in the Author's Corner. Outside of COVID times, families are most welcome to visit the school library in the main building near the office before and after school to help their child return and select books to borrow.

Playing in the yard

Teachers wear high visibility vests when supervising the yard so children can easily identify them. In the initial weeks of school, we provide additional supervision to ensure Foundation

students have support to navigate their new outdoor environment and can comfortably make their way to the canteen, toilet, first aid, playgrounds and back to class. Many of our Foundation students like to spend time in our structured, teacher-led lunchtime clubs, on the Foundation – Year 2 playground, or in the outdoor playshed.

FPS Social Club

We have an active parents and friends committee known as the FPS Social Club and they are always open to new members to help them organise social events and fundraising for the school. You can learn more about this awesome group on our school website.

We look forward to welcoming you and your child into Footscray Primary School and invite you to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.